

**VEAZIE SEWER DISTRICT
PUBLIC HEARING
MAY 26, 2011 – MINUTES
7:00 P.M.**

Attended by: Chair Steven Theborge, Trustee Esther Bushway, Supt. Gary Brooks, Tammy Olson, Councilor David King, Cathy Brooks, Sharon Theborge, Todd Lynch, Pat Joyce, Bob Jackson, Jessica Brooks, and Jim Parker. Trustee Gary Brown was absent and excused.

- 1) Call Meeting to Order – Chair Steve Theborge called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. and explained Trustee Brown’s absence. Supt. Brooks spoke with Trustee Brown this afternoon, and Trustee Brown supports the proposed rate increase.

Report on Proposed Rate Increase – Chair Steve Theborge began with a history of the District and its rates, and how they have not increased since 2001. He explained how the District’s revenue comes from user rates, debt retirement, and the assessment. This proposal deals only with the user rates and debt retirement. Chair Theborge added that the District has held a workshop with the Town Councilors and a previous public hearing and received some good feedback, and used that feedback in calculating this proposal. The current proposal is to not increase the debt retirement, and to increase the user rates from \$3.47 to \$4.16 per 100 cubic feet. The average user using 1,700 cubic feet of water per quarter would see an increase of less than \$4.00 per month. This increase will help the District move toward to where it needs to be. Chair Theborge discussed the District’s increased costs and provided upgrade information.

- 2) Comments and Questions from the Public – Pat Joyce asked about the life span of equipment, and Jim Parker provided his opinions on how long mechanical parts and lagoons could last.

Jim Parker then asked where the additional money raised through the increase is going, and added that it would make ratepayers “very comfortable.” Chair Theborge offered to put Mr. Parker on the June agenda and to have a pie chart at that time for where the money is going.

Mr. Parker then offered advice on fighting DEP regulations for generators and such, and the Trustees and Supt. Brooks described occasions where the District did argue and win their cases.

He added that if anyone wants to go to the Orono-Veazie Water District tomorrow, they will show you where every penny the Water District spends goes. They will provide you with their budget. Trustee Bushway added that the District’s budgets are discussed in public meetings.

Councilor David King thanked the District for the excellent job that they do, speaking as a councilor. He added that the District has done a very good job keeping down the rates, and as a ratepayer he appreciates it.

- 3) Motions –Trustee Bushway moved to increase the rate from \$3.47 per 100 cubic feet of water used to \$4.16 per 100 cubic feet of water used, effective with the July 1, 2011 billing; Chair Thebarga seconded. Vote 2-0, passes.

Chair Thebarga stated that it has been moved by Esther Bushway and seconded by himself, it is hereby voted that a rate increase from \$3.47 per 100 cubic feet to \$4.16 per 100 cubic feet is adopted, effective with the July 1, 2011 billing.

Trustee Bushway moved to increase the flat rate to wells from \$54.00 to \$70.72 effective with the July 1, 2011 billing; Chair Thebarga seconded. Vote 2-0, passes.

Chair Thebarga stated that it has been moved by Esther Bushway and seconded by himself, it is hereby voted that a flat rate increase for wells from \$54.00 to \$70.72 is adopted, effective with the July 1, 2011 billing.

Chair Thebarga noted that the new flat rate for those that are on wells is based on 1,700 cubic feet of usage. He added that per request, we can put a meter on those homes that are on wells. Jim Parker added that if meters are needed, the Orono-Veazie Water District would provide them for free.

- 4) Adjournment –Trustee Bushway moved to adjourn, Chair Thebarga seconded. Vote 2-0, passes at 7:39.

Minutes approved June 8, 2011, by a vote of 2-0.

Esther Bushway, Trustee. 6/8/11